AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all previous listings.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of thrombocythemia in a patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of anagrelide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide in a manner avoiding first pass liver metabolism ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered by ~~means chosen from implants~~ implant, sublingual, pregastric ~~absorption~~, pessary, suppository, transdermal ~~means nasal~~ , nasal spray, inhaled absorption or topical ~~means~~ administration.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered with a skin permeation enhancer ~~by contacting an area of skin with a skin permeable form of anagrelide, anagrelide in base form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide~~.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered to said patient transdermally or subdermally.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 4, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered transdermally.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is in the form of ~~reservoir~~ a reservoir formulation.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is in the form of a single layer formulation comprising ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt and at least one adhesive.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is in the form of a multiple layer formulation wherein at least one layer of said multiple layer formulation comprises ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt and at least one adhesive.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is in the form of a matrix formulation.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 4, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered subdermally.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 10, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered in the form of a matrix implant formulation.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein said thrombocythemia is associated with essential thrombocythemia (ET), chronic myologenous leukemia (CML), polycythemia vera (PV), agnogenic myeloid metaplasia (AMM) or sickle cell anemia(SCA).

13. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered in an amount of 0.1 to 20 mg/kg/day.

14. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered in a daily dose of 0.5 to 3 mg.

15. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered in a daily dose of 1 to 2 mg.

16. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered topically to the epidermis in the form of an ointment, cream or lotion.

17. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is in the form of a composition which further comprises at least one skin permeation enhancer.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said at least one ~~penetration~~ skin permeation enhancer is linalool, carvacrol, thymol, citral, menthol or t-anethole.

19. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch having a single-layer drug-in-adhesive system comprising a composition containing ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt, ~~any optional~~ one or more excipients, and at least one skin-contacting adhesive, which is combined with a single backing film.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch having a multi-layer drug-in-adhesive system wherein: (a) said system comprises at least two distinct layers comprising ~~at anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt and at least one adhesive, and a membrane between said at least two layers or (b) said system comprises at least two distinct layers comprising

~~at anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt and at least one adhesive, and a single backing film.

21. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch having a reservoir transdermal system comprising a liquid compartment containing a solution or suspension of ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt, a release liner, and between said release liner and said liquid compartment, a semi-permeable membrane and at least one ~~dhesive~~ adhesive.

22. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch having a matrix system comprising a semisolid matrix containing a solution or suspension of ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt which is in direct contact with a release liner, and a skin adhesion component incorporated in an overlay which forms a concentric configuration around said semisolid matrix.

23. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt intimately distributed in a matrix.

24. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing 1 mg to 100 mg of ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt per patch.

25. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing an amount of ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt ~~sufficient~~ to provide a daily dose of 0.5 to 3 mg.

26. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing a composition comprising ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt and an acrylic adhesive.

27. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 26, wherein said composition contains 66 to 99.8% by weight acrylate adhesive.

28. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing an amount of ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt, azone, ethanol, water, ~~optionally~~ propylene glycol and Klucel HF.

29. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 28, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing ~~an amount of anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt, 0.1 to 10 parts by weight azone, from 30 to 69.8 parts ethanol, 29 to 50 parts by weight water, from 0 to 30 parts by weight propylene glycol, and 1 to 5 parts by weight Klucel HF.

30. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt, ethanol, and Klucel HF.

31. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 30, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch containing ~~an amount of anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt, 85 to 97 parts by weight ethanol and 2 to 14.9 parts Klucel HF.

32. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein administration is via a transdermal patch ~~containing~~ having an area of 5 cm^2 to 100 cm^2.

33. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered over a period of time of 1 to 7 days.

34. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt is administered over a period of time of 3 to 4 days.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 3, wherein said method comprises: (a) contacting said area of skin with ~~a source of skin permeable form of anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt and a skin permeation enhancer; and (b) maintaining said source in material transmitting relationship to said area of skin for a period of at least 12 hours.

37. (Currently amended) A method of reducing the platelet count in a patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of ~~anagrelide,~~ anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide in a manner ~~whereby~~ avoiding first pass liver metabolism ~~is avoided~~ wherein the anagrelide or anagrelide salt is administered by implant, sublingual, pregastric, pessary, suppository, transdermal, nasal spray, inhaled absorption or topical administration.

38. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the side effects associated with the oral administration of anagrelide comprising administering to a patient in need thereof ~~anagrelide,~~ anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide in a manner ~~whereby~~ avoiding first pass liver metabolism ~~is avoided~~ wherein the anagrelide or anagrelide salt is administered by implant, sublingual, pregastric, pessary, suppository, transdermal, nasal spray, inhaled absorption or topical administration.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) A medical device for the transdermal administration to a patient of anagrelide, anagrelide in base form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide, said device comprising: (a) ~~reservoir means~~ a reservoir containing ~~a skin permeable form of anagrelide,~~ anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide and a skin permeation enhancer; (b) an adhesive ~~means for maintaining a said reservoir means in material transmitting relationship to a patient's skin~~.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 43, wherein said device is applied to a 5-100 cm^2 area of skin.

46. (Currently amended) A medical device for transdermal administration to a patient of ~~anagrelide,~~ anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide, comprising, in combination: (a) a reservoir containing ~~a skin permeable form of anagrelide,~~ anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide and a skin permeation enhancer, and said reservoir having a skin proximal, material releasing surface area of 5-100 cm^2; and (b) an adhesive ~~means for maintaining said reservoir in material transmitting relationship to the skin~~.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. A medical device for transdermal administration to a patient of ~~anagrelide,~~ anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of anagrelide, comprising: a backing layer, a release liner, and at least one anagrelide composition layer positioned between said backing layer and said release liner, said at least one anagrelide composition layer comprising ~~anagrelide,~~ the anagrelide ~~in base form,~~ or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of~~ anagrelide salt, and at least one adhesive.